



Littlefield Letters



Vol. 88

MARCH 1988

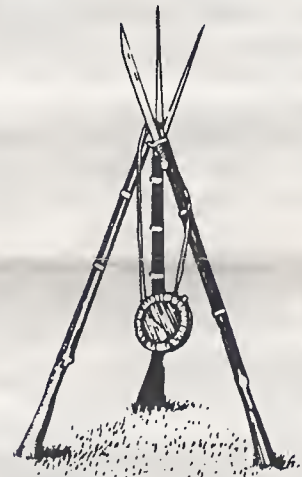
No. 3

MARCH MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday,
10 March 1988
time: 6:15 p.m.
Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

Our Valentine's meeting in February was well attended with 32 members and guests enjoying the fellowship and holiday cake furnished by the Commander. Wyatt's has been having to set up more tables to accommodate our needs. This is very good indeed!

This month our program will be the "Confederate Cavalry of Texas" brought to us by Compatriot Kerry Hellums. As many of you know, Kerry has an avid interest in Confederate cavalry and is greatly involved in reenactments. He knows a great deal about this branch of the armies of the Confederacy. Members, families, and friends alike will enjoy the food, fun, fellowship, and program at this month's meeting. See you there?



CONFEDERATE BLOOD FUND

Surgeon Edwin Smith, who oversees the Blood Fund, has reported that a new compatriot has started donating to our fund at the Blood Bank. Lee Kinard donated blood which benefited four hospital patients. We have 13 credits in our account which is set up for the benefit of our members and their families. Those members and their families who meet the minimum requirements are urged to donate blood to the Confederate Blood Fund; it is quick and painless. Besides you are giving the fluid of life to help someone in need. Remember, TEXANS PUMP IT OUT--DONATE BLOOD!



STATES OF THE CONFEDERACY:

ARKANSAS

As tensions grew in 1861, the people of Arkansas found themselves more and more allied with the South. In February 1861, state officers took over the Federal arsenal at Little Rock. However, a convention in March voted against secession, hoping the differences between the two sections might be resolved without bloodshed. They nonetheless vehemently opposed coercion of the seceding states.

After Ft. Sumter was bombarded and Lincoln had called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion a second convention was called. On May 6, the convention passed, with only one dissenting vote, an ordinance of secession joining the state to the Confederacy.

Arkansas Gov. Henry Rector had already replied to Lincoln's call:

"...none will be furnished. The demand is only adding insult to injury. The people of this commonwealth are freemen, not slaves, and will defend to the last extremity their honor, lives, and property against Northern mendacity and usurpation."

Arkansas troops fought in Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri, as well as their home state. In northwest Arkansas, they suffered defeat in the bloody battle of Elkhorn Tavern (Pea Ridge) in March 1862. In 1863, the state government was forced from Little Rock southwest to Washington, Ark. Early the next year representatives from 23 counties met and organized a Unionist government. The dividing line for the rest of the war was roughly the Arkansas River.

Arkansas furnished 70 separate military organizations to the Confederate cause and 17 to the Federals. Records of losses are incomplete, but at least 3,080 in Confederate service were killed in action or died of wounds, and 3,780 died of disease. Total deaths in Union service numbered 1,713.



THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY

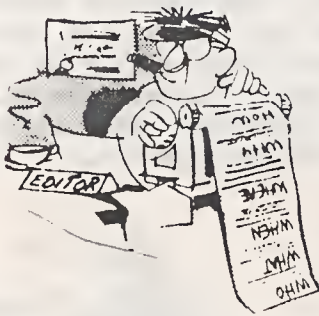
In 1861-63, Confederate cavalry outclassed their opponents. They had been recruited from among a rural population accustomed to riding from childhood and were led by a horse-conscious country "squirearchy", and also were handled better in being concentrated from the first into a corps and committed in strength. At an early time, Union units were weakened by dispersion.

Regiments were gathered into brigades--from 2 to 6 regiments, depending upon strength; brigades were grouped up to 6 into divisions. In April 1865, the ANVA Cavalry Corps had 4 divisions totalling 10 brigades, plus 2 artillery battalions totalling 5 batteries.

continued on page 4

The "Littlefield Letters" is the official publication of the Major George W. Littlefield Camp No 59, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Permission to reprint is granted; credit line is appreciated. Subscriptions available for \$10 per year from Gregory T. Hector, editor, 5914 Sunshine Drive, Austin, Texas 78757.

From the . . . Editor's Desk



Do You...DO YOU?

Do you know the SCV declares an unquestioned allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America?

Do you know we consider our governmental philosophies as Southerners as stemming from the Anglo-Saxon rights and privileges in the Great Charter granted by King John on the plains of Runnymede in 1215?

Do you know we and the Southerners who established the Confederate States of America realized that the U. S. Constitution and the great principles upon which this country were established were principles expounded by Southern men; that, in fact, our great documents celebrating American independence and this republic were largely written by Southerners?

Do you believe, then, that those Southerners in 1861 thought they were perpetuating that American experiment begun in 1776 establishing the CSA as the true heir to those American ideals; that the North, in gaining control over the Federal government had subverted those principles of limited Federal powers and a liberal construction of the Constitutionally implied and understood reservation to the States of powers not specifically granted to the central government?

Do you believe, then, that we should adhere to our stated purpose of aiding and encouraging "the teaching... (of) all Southern History and achievement from Jamestown to the present era, ...especially that the events of the WBTS are authentically and clearly written,...

stressing that of our heroic Confederate Ancestors who by their sacrifice perpetuated unto us and our descendants that glorious heritage of valor, chivalry and honor, ...and to instill into our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America to the honor, glory, and memory of our fathers who fought in that cause?"

Do you believe our reverence of our ancestors is just, that we have no reason for shame in what they stood for and believed in, and that no Southerner should feel shame?

Do you believe that slavery was not the cause of the dissolution of the Union or the WBTS since only about 10% of the Confederate soldiers were slaveowners?

Do you know that flag, the symbol our forefathers cherished is now under vicious attack by those who would corrupt the principles and honor of your forebears; that they would have all Americans--from the youngest school child to the oldest politician--feel they should denigrate this cherished symbol, and that others are causing us true heirs to the Confederacy problems by their misuse and abuse of our fathers' flag? If you believe all this is true, then,

Do you believe your SCV membership requires your active help in combatting the lies and spreading the truth every way you can?

Do you believe we are the heirs to the Confederacy?

Do you think your ancestor would be proud of your activity in upholding his principles, of your activity in helping further the SCV cause, of your personal attempts at confronting and combatting our enemies without and proselytizing others to join, or would he consider you an armchair quarterback, a summer soldier and sunshine patriot?

Do you help and participate in every way you can?

Do you...DO YOU?

CAVALRY continued

For all their reputation among their enemies though, the cavalry enjoyed no vast popularity among their unmounted brethren. Foot soldiers, like their counterparts the world over, looked with contempt upon the often invisible cavalry. Gen. D.H. Hill is said to have offered a reward to anyone who could find him a dead cavalryman killed in action "with his spurs on". Under leaders such as Stuart and Morgan, they excelled at long-range raids and scouts. They were less impressive when working in close harness with the rest of the army. Stuart's failure at Gettysburg is notorious.

The firepower of infantry rifled muskets made any kind of massed classic charge against infantry formed up on the battlefield a suicidal affair. WBTS cavalry avoided such foolish things. They skirmished with pistols, carbines, shotguns, and sa-

bres, often fighting on foot. They were both versatile and enduring. Their main difficulty lay in securing mounts. Confederates had to provide their own horses. If theirs was killed, upon being unable to find another, a foot soldier emerged. This weakness hampered the strength of the Confederate cavalry.



- THE LITTLEFIELD LETTERS -

Official Publication of the
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Major George Washington Littlefield Camp No 59
5914 Sunshine Drive • Austin, Texas 78757
Gregory T. Hector, Editor

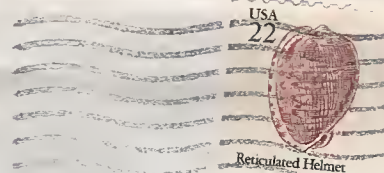
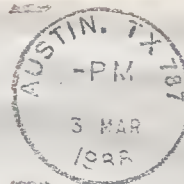
1988
DIXIE DONORS
Littlefield Brigade

These Compatriots have contributed \$10 or more toward the publication of this newsletter and the continuation of the Cause.

Charles Bell
Tom Bishop
Ed Caillleteau
Sam Cook
Bill Cooper
David Couch
Manley Crider
Thos. Ferguson
Chet Garrett

H.T. Haile
James Harper
Greg Hector
Tom Hicks
W.V. Hicks
Bill Kaiser
Lee Kinard
Rodney Leist
John Meadows

David Morris
Clarence Niebuh
Joe O'Connor
Peter Orlebeke
Edwin Smith
James Smith
Buck Tinsley
Darrell Windham
Bob Winston
Patrick Yarbrough



A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION